

# INFANTRY NEWS



## USAMU To Offer Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has announced that it will provide a new Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course to help Soldiers improve their war-fighting marksmanship skills. Army Marksmanship Unit shooters have nearly doubled the number of rifle and pistol marksmanship train-the-trainer missions they conduct and will now also provide this Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course.

The first class, scheduled for November 8-19, will be a comprehensive M16 course designed to hit enemy targets to 500 meters; this class will be open to only Fort Benning Soldiers. Future classes are planned for December 6-17, January 10-21 and January 31-February 11; all classes are limited to a maximum of 30 students.

Soldiers will be instructed in areas of marksmanship, range estimation, and target detection; there will be numerous practical exercises including instruction on known and unknown distance rifle ranges. The course will be available to noncommissioned officers in team leader through platoon sergeant positions, with priority going to Soldiers in combat arms.

The course is leader training to develop Soldier long-range shooting skills, according to USAMU Commander Lieutenant Colonel David J. Liwanag.

Currently, Soldiers receive about 12 days of basic rifle marksmanship in Basic Training, focusing on distances of 300 meters and closer. The Army currently has no advanced or sustainment marksmanship training to hit targets past 300 meters



with the M16 to the maximum effective range of 550 meters.

“The Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course will offer commanders an excellent tool to train Soldiers in combat and advanced marksmanship techniques,” Liwanag continued. “This is especially valuable now with troops deployed in combat and with the Army Chief of Staff’s emphasis on individual Soldier combat skills.” Recently Army Chief of Staff General Peter J. Schoomaker stated that “every Soldier is a rifleman.”

“When they complete the course, trainers will have the ability to identify and train Soldiers in their units to hit targets 500 meters out. Targets at 200 and 300 meters won’t be much of a challenge,” Liwanag said. “Leaders will get hands-on training, range practical application and training materials provided by the Army Marksmanship Unit.”

The award-winning shooters of the Army Marksmanship Unit’s Service Rifle Team will teach the Squad Designated Marksman course. These shooters specialize in firing small arms that are organic to units within the military including the M14, bolt-action rifles and all variations of the M16 and M4 at distances up to 1,000 yards.

For more information on the Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course, contact Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competitions, at michael.behnke@usarec.army.mil or (706) 545-7841 or USAMU Training NCO Janet Sokolowski T (706) 545-1410; the fax is (706) 545-6252.

## Reunions

**The Society of the First Infantry Division (Big Red One)** will hold its 86th annual reunion July 28 - August 1 in Chicago, Illinois. For more information, write to the society at 1933 Morris Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422 or call (888) 324-4733, fax (215) 661-1934. E-mail is Soc1ID@aol.com

**The 45th Infantry Division Association (THUNDERBIRDS)** will hold a reunion September 30 - October 4 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For more information, contact Raul Trevino at 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111 or (210) 681-9134.

**The Association of the 3rd Armored Division (SPEARHEAD)** will hold its fourth annual reunion in Columbus, Ohio, July 14-18. For more information, call Carl Erickson at (301) 520-3275 or visit [www.3AD.org](http://www.3AD.org)

# USAMU Soldiers Train Troops in Iraq

SPECIALIST CHAD D. WILKERSON, 372ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

To maintain an efficient and effective fighting force, Soldiers never stop training. Even while conducting combat operations in a foreign land, Soldiers must test and refine their fighting skills to stay one step ahead of their enemies on the battlefield.

With the lessons learned in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, the U.S. Army has increased focus and changed its approach on marksmanship.

Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) of Fort Benning, Georgia, have conducted classes for Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division at ranges all over Baghdad — classes that prepare them for the type of combat they can expect in modern urban war.

“We are traveling around Baghdad at the request of the 1st AD, training their troops in what we call high performance shooting or combat marksmanship under urban considerations,” said Staff Sergeant Aaron Hampton, USAMU Service Pistol Team shooter and instructor. Hampton and the other members of his team are veteran competition shooters who have harnessed their knowledge and experience into a three-day, intensive close quarters combat training, he said.

The purpose of the course, said Hampton, is to train Soldiers on marksmanship from unconventional positions, such as entering a room or while driving.

“Our training starts where the Army’s basic rifle marksmanship leaves off,” Hampton said. “We want to take Soldiers out of the foxholes and prone positions and teach them how to stand, move and shoot more effectively and efficiently.”

The class begins with classroom-style instruction focusing on safety and then progresses onto the basics of moving and shooting on foot as part of a team. Everything from the basic firing stance and holding the weapon, to evacuating a vehicle and communicating with teammates is



Specialist Andrew Meisner

*Staff Sergeant Aaron Hampton (right) helps a student with his shot placement at the USAMU range held at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq.*

covered in the training.

“We want to give our Soldiers confidence,” Hampton said. “The last thing any Soldier should have to worry about in an urban conflict is ‘Will my rounds hit the intended target?’ This training is increasing Soldier confidence, combat survivability and lethality on this urban battlefield.”

Perhaps the most important aspect of the training is that it provides Soldiers with techniques that are easily passed on to other Soldiers.

“We have been able to package this training so it is manageable, and each Soldier is able to walk away with tangible benefits and the ability to go out and train others in the unit,” Hampton said. “It is definitely a force multiplier.”

This was the Army Marksmanship Unit Service Pistol Team’s fourth iteration of the course, and Hampton said the feedback has been positive.

Nearly 100 comment cards were collected, and the instructors received only

one complaint — Soldiers wished they had received the training long ago.

“The Soldiers I brought out here with me said this is the best training they have received since they have been in the Army,” said Staff Sergeant Curtis George, section sergeant and tank commander with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment. “This is new, exciting and effective.”

George said missions in the past required a skill set that was new and unfamiliar to them. He said the close-quarters, dynamic-style marksmanship training they received during the high-performance shooting class will make them much more effective on the streets of Baghdad.

“Here in Iraq, we have had a lot of shooting on the move and a lot of raids where we enter rooms,” George said. “Even though the urban environment is still fairly new to the Army, that is where the new wars are, and that is where we need to learn how to fight.”

# Study Says Load Too Heavy

Nowhere in Afghanistan did Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dean see the folkloric 120-pound rucksack reputed to be carried by a dismounted infantryman in combat, but what these Soldiers do carry continues to weigh too much.

Dean, an infantry officer serving as the Army's liaison to the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), presented findings of a study on the modern warrior's combat load last November at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Massachusetts.

He field trained and then led a team of seven carefully selected Airborne Rangers who volunteered to collect combat load data from paratroopers within the 82nd Airborne Division operating in Afghanistan.

They weighed combat loads and inventoried individual items of equipment carried by 764 out of 1,305 paratroopers assigned to the infantry rifle companies within Task Force Devil. Team members then packed the identical gear, rehearsed with the units and finally served as members of rifle platoons and squads within the task force on 15 separate dismounted combat missions against the enemy.

"If we want to reduce weight and bulk,

you can throw a gazillion dollars into technology, but weight today is twice where it should be, and you can't reduce weight by technology alone," Dean said. "The solution is to get the weight off the Soldiers. The reality is to accept that some things have to come off the guy's back."

A fighting load is everything worn or carried except a rucksack and should be held to less than 48 pounds, according to the Army field manual for foot marches. The next level, approach march load, adds a light rucksack and should not exceed 72 pounds. In the worst-case scenario, emergency approach march loads require a larger rucksack, raising the total weight to 120-150 pounds.

After reviewing the data, the average rifleman's fighting load was 63 pounds, which meant he was carrying on average 36 percent of his body weight before strapping on a rucksack. The average approach march load was 96 pounds or 55 percent of an average rifleman's body weight, and the emergency approach march load average was 127 pounds or 71 percent of an average rifleman's body weight.

For more information, visit the Soldier Systems Center website at [www.natick.army.mil](http://www.natick.army.mil).

# Enemy Employs New Tactic

In Iraq, coalition officials reported a new tactic used by terrorist forces: using aid convoys to smuggle arms.

In restive Fallujah, where tensions remain high between Marines and the local population, a convoy of humanitarian goods was found to contain weapons and ammunition, according to CJTF 7 officials.

U.S. Marines working with Iraqi forces in the area reported finding armor-piercing rounds, aiming sights for rockets, and rifles hidden in bags of rice, grain and tea. "The man detained for transporting the weapons was wearing a poorly made Red Crescent uniform in an attempt to make the convoy look legitimate," a spokesman said in a statement.

Also in Fallujah, Marines engaged an enemy sniper, who then fled in an Iraqi ambulance. "By using the ambulances, (the enemy forces) put wounded and dying Iraqis in harm's way, preventing them the services they need to reach medical care," the spokesman said.

*(Taken from an American Forces Information Service news article dated April 15.)*

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

A flashlight is something we hardly ever think about. We have one on top of the fridge, one in the car, and a couple of small ones in a drawer. And whenever we need a flashlight, for some ironic reason the batteries are near dead or the bulb needs to be replaced. Flashlights are not a reliable tool in our household. But in a military environment, a reliable flashlight can be the difference between life and death.

Lightwave™ designed a brand new flashlight based on a revolutionary new LED (light-emitting diode) technology instead of using a bulb. LEDs are up to 100 times more energy efficient than a light bulb. Light bulbs have a tendency to burn out fast. The fragile bulbs used in flashlights last 10, maybe 20 hours. LEDs, however, are virtually indestructible.

The new Lightwave™ flashlight is always ready to be used. The Model 3000 uses seven super-bright, white LEDs and runs 700 hours on three alkaline C-cell batteries, compared to a normal



flashlight which runs for only eight to 10 hours. This means that the batteries powering a Lightwave 3000 flashlight will last up to one month.

Additionally, the Lightwave 3000 only weighs 6.4 ounces. This means it is about 25-percent lighter than a typical C cell flashlight. It is water resistant and will provide bright white light in any weather condition. Its durable construction, with genuine rubber overmolding, means you will not break a light element if you drop it onto the ground.

Lightwave also makes a "Head Torch." The "Head Torch" places the light source directly on the user's forehead, allowing for totally hands-free operation. Many units are using this light source instead of a traditional flashlight.

Lightwave flashlights are available through the military supply system. For more information, call Bruce Brown at (714) 593-2801.



Joe Burlas

*Staff Sergeant Charles W. Blackwell of the Texas National Guard tackles a 500-yard target during the All-Army Small Arms Championship. Blackwell was named the 2004 overall individual champion.*

# All-Army Small Arms Championships Hone Combat Skills

JOE BURLAS, ARMY NEWS SERVICE

While the All-Army Small Arms Championships is an M16 rifle and M9 pistol competition, this year it was also an advanced marksmanship workshop that will help competitors share combat skills with Soldiers at their home units.

More than 170 Soldiers, representing the active force, Army Reserve, National Guard and Cadet Command, participated in the first Small Arms Championships since 1994, March 15-25 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Staff Sergeant Charles W. Blackwell, individual winner of the last Small Arms Championship in 1994, emerged again as this year's overall champion at the end of individual competition March 19. Blackwell is a member of the Texas National Guard.

Major Timothy S. Kean, Texas National Guard, finished second overall; and Sergeant First Class David J. Kerin, Pennsylvania National Guard, placed third. Major Rhonda L. Bright, 81st Regional Readiness Command, was the top female shooter in the overall individual phase.

Attendees first competed in an individual competition consisting of three M9 pistol matches and three M16 matches. The competition then moved to team matches with both the M16 and M9. The championships finish March 25 with a long-range match with competitors using M14 or M24 rifles.

The All-Army marksman competition was revived because

recent Army operations have demonstrated the need for Soldiers to feel confidence in the ability of their weapons to engage targets at ranges beyond what they experience on training ranges, according to Lieutenant Colonel David Liwanag, commander of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. USAMU hosted the event.

"What better time to bring this championship back than now when we are at war?" Liwanag said. "We've got commanders saying they can see a lot farther in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan than the 300-meter ranges their Soldiers are used to shooting on. Here, they fire out to 500 yards and see they can hit the target at that distance — that's about 200 yards farther than most Soldiers are trained to shoot."

Competitors were not expected to be expert long-distance marksmen with their weapons when they arrived. USAMU staff gave a two-day workshop at the beginning of the competition consisting of classroom training and familiarization shooting on the range.

Two of the most important lessons shooters learned during that workshop were to be comfortable changing the windage on the sight when shooting at long distances and to anticipate the drop of the bullet over that distance, Liwanag said.

The workshop and subsequent competition matches also refreshed competitors' knowledge of the standing, sitting and

offhand shooting positions. Record M16 fire requires just the supported prone and supported standing positions. Using the sling for a steady firing position was reinforced throughout the championships training.

Each participant received a service pistol and service rifle marksmanship book, and a data book to take notes for the basis of lesson plans. All who completed the training received an instructor certificate from USAMU. The intent of the training is for the competitors to go back to their units and make a difference by passing on advanced marksmanship skills to their fellow Soldiers, Liwanag said.

“Combat marksmanship is training our Soldiers’ need — look at the Guard and Reserve; we’re mobilizing thousands of Soldiers each month for deployment,” said First Sergeant Michael Brown, team captain for the 81st Regional Readiness Command competitors and a member of the Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Team. “Sharing what we learn here may save lives of some of those deploying Soldiers.”

Good marksmanship isn’t just for rifles and pistols, Liwanag said, as it crosses all shooting disciplines, including shooting a

main tank gun or using a machine gun.

In next year’s competition, Liwanag said he plans to have shooters fire wearing full body armor as he does not see Soldiers going into battle in the future without it. Likewise, he plans to add night firing training if the resources are available to reflect the reality that the Army fights at night.

Bright said she has been shooting competitively since she was 9 years old — first with a National Rifle Association club, on the U.S. Military Academy Rifle Team as a cadet in the mid 1980s and with USAMU while on active duty. She is double qualified for the Service Rifle Distinguished Badge and was the 1993, 1995 and 1998 air pistol national champion.

“After shooting for so many years, I still learned a lot during this competition — and I am definitely going to pass on what I learned to others in my unit,” Bright said. “I’ll be back for next year’s competition too.”

For more All-Army Small Arms Championships results or information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, visit the USAMU Website, [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu).



U.S. Army photo

*During the All-Army Small Arms Championships, Soldiers prepare for the M9 pistol portion of the competition. Active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers competed in the event at Fort Benning, Georgia.*

## All-Army Small Arms Championship Results

### U.S. Army Combined Small Arms

#### Overall Individual Champion —

SSG Charles W. Blackwell

2nd place — MAJ Timothy S. Kean

3rd place — SFC David J. Kerin

#### High Female Shooter —

MAJ Rhonda L. Bright

#### Novice Division

1st place —

SGM Patrick A. McNamara

2nd place — CPT Gregory L. Wooten

3rd place — SGT Sean M. Toner

4th place — SGT William P. Green

5th place — SSG Todd A. Bailey

6th place — SSG Russell W. Stone

#### Cadet Division

1st place — Cadet Donald P. Skidmore

#### High Active Army Shooter —

SSG Brian P. Arnold

#### High Active Army Junior Enlisted

Novice — SPC Scott Grant

#### High Active Army Senior Enlisted

Novice — SGT Sean M. Toner

#### Secretary of the Army Combat Pistol Match

1st place — SSG Charles W. Blackwell

2nd place — MAJ Timothy S. Kean

3rd place — MAJ Rhonda L. Bright

#### Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA)

##### Combat Pistol Match

1st place — SSG Charles W. Blackwell

2nd place — MAJ Timothy S. Kean

3rd place — SSG Michael Discioscia

#### Excellence in Competition (EIC)

##### Pistol Match

1st place — SSG Charles W. Blackwell

2nd place — WO4 Albert Wood

3rd place — MSG Thomas Boyle

#### Secretary of the Army Combat Rifle Match

1st place — SFC David J. Kerin

2nd place — SPC Steven Woodruff

3rd place — SSG David Hastings

#### Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA)

##### Combat Rifle Match

1st place — SFC David J. Kerin

2nd place — SSG Bruce Roscoe

3rd place — SFC Gregory Neiderhiser

#### Excellence in Competition (EIC)

##### Rifle Match

1st place — MAJ Rhonda L. Bright

2nd place — MSG Beverly Spungin

3rd place — SFC David J. Kerin

**More results can be found at [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu).**